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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/318,917	05/26/1999	GERALD B. HALT JR.	HAL2-PT001.1	2067

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LEWIS, CHERYL RENEA

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2177

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/318,917	Applicant(s) Halt
	Examiner Cheryl Lewis	Art Unit 2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on October 1, 2001, paper no. 6

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 1835 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) Other: _____

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III. DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to the applicant's communication, Amendment B, received on October 1, 2001, paper no. 6.
2. Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.
3. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, and 7.
4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

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evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103[©] and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Polnerow et al. (Pat. No. 5,813,006 filed 5/6/96, hereinafter Polnerow) and Schneck et al. (Pat. No. 6,208,986 B1 filed 12/15/97, hereinafter Schneck).

7. Regarding Claim 1, Polnerow teaches on-line directory service with registration system.

The method and associated system for on-line directory service with registration system as taught or suggested by Polnerow includes:

a data file (col. 7, line 15 and 20-21) having at least one user-selectable field (col. 5, lines 1-6 & 33-48); means for transmitting a data file (figure 1, element 24, directory service, col. 2, lines 35-51); means for receiving a data file (col. 2, lines 34-41); and means for changing a Web page in response to a data file (col. 2, lines 42-44, col. 3, lines 43-49, col. 4, lines 35-39 & 58-61); and analyzing a plurality of user-selectable fields of the data file and for changing the form and content of a Web page in response to the analysis (Abstract, lines 3-4, '*Registered users can make edits to their listings and obtain perform other services.*').

However, Polnerow does not expressly teach a user-selectable means for describing a personal characteristic of a user.

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Schneck teaches a web interface and method for accessing and displaying directory information.

The method and associated system for web interface and method for accessing and displaying directory information as taught or suggested by Schneck includes:

a user selectable means for describing a personal characteristic of a user (col. 3, lines 57-65, col. 12, lines 52-56, col. 18, claim 13, lines 20-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the directory display information means of Polnerow's method with the method of Schneck because Schneck's method enables a system to have an administrative interface which customizes a directory display information.

8. Regarding Claim 2, Polnerow teaches means for automatically generating an information user profile (col. 3, lines 14-31, col. 5, lines 33-48) having at least one user-selectable data field (col. 5, lines 1-6 & 33-48), for defining a user attribute (col. 4, lines 22-31, col. 5, lines 33-48, user attribute, for example promotions database (figure 2, element 49) comprises attribute data on a type of product, service, or interest (col. 4, lines 25-28); and promotions data base comprises attribute data on a user's specific purchasing interest, type, brand, location (col. 5, lines 35-45); means for transmitting information user profile over the Internet the information user to the 'information provider (figure 1, element 24, directory service, col. 2, lines 35-51)', the directory service, such as the SWITCH BOARD directory service is located on the world-wide web and is generally publicly accessible with a HyperText

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Transfer Protocol (HTTP) request from any user, the directory transmitting user profile information known as “white pages” records that are publicly accessible over the Internet (col. 2, lines 35-44); means for receiving information user profile by the information provider (col. 2, lines 34-41); means for analyzing information user profile (col. 2, lines 52-61, col. 3, lines 43-49, col. 3, lines 66-67, col. 4, lines 1-14); means for selecting and outputting one data stream by the information provider (col. 4, lines 15-39), data stream being selected in response to analysis of the received information user profile (col. 4, lines 15-39). However, Polnerow does not expressly teach a user-selectable data means to selectively identify characteristics particular to a user.

Schneck teaches the means which essentially comprise the same means as a user-selectable for identifying characteristics particular to a user, characteristics selected from the group of age, race, sex, income and native language (col. 12, lines 15-23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the interface means of Polnerow's method with the interface means of Schneck's method because Schneck's method enables LDAP (lightweight directory access protocol), wherein a directory server with web interface technology provides a user-friendly way to publish enterprise directory information in HTML format via the Internet or intranets.

9. Regarding Claim 3, Polnerow teaches the information provider (world wide web, col. 2, lines 38-44) includes a plurality of ‘data streams (col. 6, lines 55-66)’, data streams, i.e. “Find People” (col. 6, lines 56-57), each data stream including an information identifier (URL

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identifier, col. 3, lines 5-11, e-mail address, col. 6, lines 55-64) for identifying the type of information provided by a data stream (col. 6, lines 55-64).

10. Regarding Claim 4, Polnerow teaches the data streams may be individually linked (figure 2, element 49, Promotions Database, col. 4, lines 40-61).

11. Regarding Claim 5, Polnerow teaches the content of the ‘data streams (a registered user, col. 8, line 1)’ changes (i.e. edit listing and/or additional listing, col. 8, lines 1-12) on a basis set by an information provider (col. 8, lines 16-29, “More Info”).

12. Regarding Claim 6, Polnerow teaches each data stream is selectively tailored to one of the data fields (col. 7, lines 41-50, “to” field, “reply-to” field, “subject” field).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371[®] of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

14. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Polnerow et al.

(Pat. No. 5,813,006 filed 5/6/96.

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15. Regarding Claim 7, Polnerow teaches selection by information user of a plurality of attributes to define an information user profile (col. 5, lines 34-47, col. 7, lines 8-19); transmitting information user profile (figure 1, element 24, directory service, col. 2, lines 35-51), the directory service, such as the SWITCH BOARD directory service is located on the world-wide web and is generally publicly accessible with a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) request from any user, the directory transmitting user profile information known as “white pages” records that are publicly accessible over the Internet (col. 2, lines 35-44); receiving information profile (col. 2, lines 34-41); and tailoring a web page to the received information user profile (col. 2, lines 42-44, col. 3, lines 43-49, col. 4, lines 35-39 & 58-61).

Name of Contact

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is 703-305-8750.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur from 6:30 to 3:00 pm.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 746-7238 (After Final Communication)

or:

(703) 746-7239 (Official Communications)

(703) 746-7240 (For Status inquiries, draft communication)

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any/or:

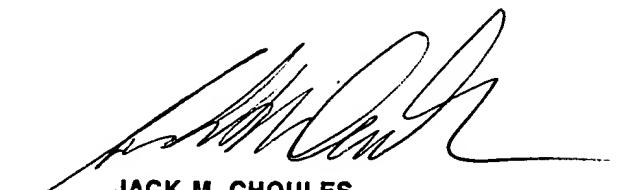
(703) 746-5651 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.)

Any inquiry of a general nature of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist).



Cheryl Lewis
Patent Examiner
November 30, 2001



JACK M. CHOULES
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2777